



# “Opening Doors to Women”

2002 Convention

August 18 - 20, 2002

Association of California  
Commissions for Women

Hosted by  
California Commission on the Status of Women

# Honorary Convention Committee

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# Schedule of Events

Sunday - August 18

Noon - 5:00 PM

Registration Grand Nave Foyer

1:00 - 1:15 PM

Welcome Gardenia Room

[Lorene Irizary](#) - President, Association of California Commissions for Women  
[Elmy Bermejo](#) - Chair, California Commission on the Status of Women

1:15 - 3:00 PM

Workshops

## Commission Meetings: Making Them Engaging and Productive

This workshop will identify skills and share tips on how to make Commission meetings productive, inspiring, and more effective in achieving Commission goals.

**Panelists:** Melissa Lukin-Rai - Boardnet: A Program of the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County  
Pat Obuchowski - Commission on the Status of Women of San Mateo County

Baker Room - 3rd Floor

## Coalition Building: Creating Strong Relationships in Your Community

Strengthen the voice of Commissions by building and cultivating relationships with other community-based organizations. Hear from others who have been successful in building strong working coalitions.

**Moderator:** Lisa Lopez Coffey - Commission on the Status of Women of San Mateo County

**Panelists:** Marilyn Fowler - California Women's Agenda  
Aileen Hernandez - California Women's Agenda  
Rosario Navarrette - San Francisco Department on the Status of Women

Gardenia Room

3:00 - 3:15 PM

Break Gardenia Room

3:15 - 5:15 PM

Business Meeting Gardenia Room

[Association of California Commissions for Women](#)

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Reception and Commission Exchange Gardenia Room

**Facilitator** — [Mary M. Wiberg](#) - Executive Director, California Commission on the Status of Women

**Remarks** — [Midge Costanza](#) - Special Assistant to the Governor on Women's Issues

# Schedule of Events

Monday - August 19

6:30 AM

**"Rise and Shine"** self-guided Walk at Capitol Park

7:30 - 5:00 PM

Resource Fair **Gardenia Room**

7:30 - 8:30 AM

Registration **Grand Nave Foyer**  
Breakfast **Gardenia Room**

8:30 - 9:00 AM

Welcome **Gardenia Room**

**Lorene Irizarry** - President, Association of California Commissions for Women

**Elmy Bermejo** - Chair, California Commission on the Status of Women

**Cruz M. Bustamante** - Lieutenant Governor

**Senator Martha Escutia** - Chair, Legislative Women's Caucus

**Jenny Erwin** - Regional Administrator, U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau, Region IX

9:00 - 10:15 AM

Workshops

## Reproductive Freedom: Are Your Choices at Risk?

Learn about impending threats and what you can do to guarantee a woman's right to reproductive health care — now and in the future.

**Moderator:** Lucie Bava - California Commission on the Status of Women

**Panelists:** Kathy Kneer - Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

Lilly Spitz - California Planned Parenthood Education Fund, Inc.

Belle Taylor-McGhee - San Francisco Department on the Status of Women

**Baker Room**  
3rd Floor

## Violence Against Women: Responding to a Public Health Issue

Examine the multiple ways that violence against women affects women's health and hear from a medical leader working on the medical response to violence. Share and discuss your community's response to this issue.

**Moderator:** Marilyn Kizziah - California Commission on the Status of Women

**Panelists:** Dr. Connie Mitchell - California Medical Training Center

Elizabeth Saviano - California Office of Women's Health, Department of Health Services

**Hendricks Room - 3rd Floor**

## Women of Color: Working from Margin to Center

Hear young women of color - whose voices are rarely heard in decision and policy-making arenas - address issues such as immigration, religion and welfare reform and their impact on women.

**Moderator:** Dr. Rita Cameron Wedding - California Commission on the Status of Women

**Panelist:** Yosra Ibrahim Fadul - California State University, Sacramento

Guadalupe Grimaldi - California State University, Sacramento

Ghada Masri - University of California, Davis Extension

**Kamilas Room - 3rd Floor**

10:15 - 10:30 AM

Break

**3rd Floor Foyer**

# Schedule of Events

Monday - August 19

10:30 - 11:45 AM

Workshops

## Economic Justice: Where Are We Now: What's Coming Next?

Federal/state legislation and budget deficits are impacting women's movement toward economic justice. Learn the current economic status of women in California and strategies for addressing federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization and implementation.

**Moderator:** Karen Humphrey - Office of Workforce Development, California Department of Education

**Panelists:** Lupe Alonzo-Diaz - Children's Advocacy Institute  
Judy Patrick - The Women's Foundation  
Jean Ross - California Budget Project

Baker Room - 3rd Floor

## When Women Lead, Women Win!

This workshop features specific ways Commissions can increase the number of women who run for office, get appointed to boards and commissions, and serve as campaign and legislative staffers.

**Moderator:** Kelly Hayes-Raitt - Coast-to-Coast Community Campaigns

**Panelists:** Elena Ong - California Commission on the Status of Women  
Suzanne Wierbinski - Office of Senator Martha Escutia  
Dezie Woods-Jones - Black Women Organized for Political Action

Hendricks - 3rd Floor

## Moving the Agenda Forward: The Promise of Young Women

The Women's Agenda is facing a generational challenge! This workshop will highlight organizational strategies for reaching out and engaging young women.

**Moderator:** Mary M. Wiberg - California Commission on the Status of Women

**Panelists:** Lauren Clementino - Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women  
Christina Hioureas - California NOW  
Megan Seely - California NOW

Kamilas Room - 3rd Floor

11:45 - noon

Break

Gardenia Room

noon - 1:30 PM

Lunch

Gardenia Room

Remarks — Senator Deborah Ortiz

Winning Equality for Women in Policing: Why It Matters

Keynote Speaker — Kathy Spillar, Executive Vice President  
Feminist Majority Foundation

# Schedule of Events

## Monday - August 19

1:30 - 3:30 PM

Legislative Briefing and Capitol Visits

Gardenia Room and State Capitol

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Workshop

### Implementing CEDAW — Lessons Learned

The U.S. is one of 22 countries, including Afghanistan and Iran, that has not ratified the 1979 UN treaty for women's rights. This workshop will outline the status of CEDAW in Congress and efforts to enact CEDAW principles at the state and local level.

**Moderator:** Roslyn Cooperman - California Commission on the Status of Women

**Panelists:** Alison Harlow - Santa Cruz County Commission on the Status of Women

Billie Heller - National Committee on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Sonia Melara - Arriba Juntos

Gardenia Room

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Reception — Celebrating 30 Years of Title IX

Golden State Museum  
1020 "O" Street

## Tuesday - August 20

6:30 AM

"Rise and Shine" self-guided Walk at Capitol Park

7:30 - 9:00 AM

Breakfast on Your Own

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Business Meeting

Gardenia Room

Association of California Commissions for Women

10:30 - 10:45 AM

Break

Gardenia Room

10:45 - 1:00 PM

Brunch

Gardenia Room

Greetings — First Lady Sharon Davis  
Senator Sheila Kuehl

Top of the Ticket: Isn't It Time — A Woman in the White House

Keynote Speaker — Marie Wilson, President, Ms. Foundation and  
The White House Project

1:00 PM

Adjournment

## Keynote

## Speakers



### Katherine Spillar

[Katherine Spillar](#) is the Executive Vice President of the Feminist Majority Foundation, a national organization working for women's equality, empowerment, and non-violence. One of its founders, Spillar has been a driving force in executing the Feminist Majority Foundation's diverse programs that work to secure women's rights, including the Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan, the National Clinic Access project, the National Center for Women & Policing, and the Rock for Choice concert series.

She oversees activities of the National Center for Women & Policing. The Center is working to increase the number of women in the ranks of law enforcement across the country as a strategy for reducing police brutality and improving police response to crimes of violence against women. She has received national recognition for her leadership in the struggle to counter the effects of Operation Rescue, the extremist anti-abortion group blocking women's clinics.

### Marie Wilson

[Marie Wilson](#) is [President](#) of the [Ms. Foundation for Women](#) and the [White House Project](#). An advocate of women's issues for more than 30 years, Wilson became president of the Ms. Foundation in 1984. She co-founded The White House Project in 1998 to get more women elected to office, including the presidency. In 1999, she founded the Women's Leadership Fund, a public education initiative dedicated to changing perceptions about and biases against women's leadership ability.



Marie's leadership has resulted in a wide array of accomplishments, including publishing "Women's Voices," a 1992 bipartisan policy guide highlighting issues that unify women, regardless of status, and formulating The White House Project's Ballot Box Initiative, a national straw poll highlighting top women leaders. Other accomplishments include co-creating the "Take Our Daughters To Work" Day, co-authoring the critically acclaimed Mother Daughter Revolution (1993, Bantam Books), and serving as an official government delegate to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in 1995.

## Featured

## Speakers

### Lupe Alonzo-Diaz

[Lupe Alonzo-Diaz](#) is the Senior Policy Advocate and Sacramento lobbyist for the Children's Advocacy Institute, Center for Public Interest Law, a nonprofit advocacy organization. Lupe advocates for children before the courts, government agencies and the Legislature and focuses on child abuse and neglect, child care and development, health and safety issues, and efforts to improve the government's delivery of children's services. Lupe also serves as Chair of the Children's Advocates Roundtable.

### Lucie Bava

[Lucie Fischer Bava](#) is President of the The Tarte Affaire, her own home-based business. She has been the manufacturer of Tarte Affaire Hot Fudge Sauce for the Williams-Sonoma stores for more than 15 years. Lucie served as Executive Director of Women For:, an organization of over 2000 political activists in southern California, for more than ten years. In 2001, Lucie was appointed to the California Commission on the Status of Women by former Speaker of the Assembly Robert M. Hertzberg.

# Featured Speakers

## Elmy Bermejo

[Elmy Bemejo](#) has been in public service for more than 15 years, working in both California and in Washington D.C. She currently is San Francisco District Representative for John Burton, President pro Tempore of the California State Senate. In 1999, Elmy was appointed by Governor Gray Davis to the California Commission on the Status of Women, where she is serving her second term as the Commission's Chair.

## Cruz M. Bustamante

[Cruz M. Bustamante](#) was elected Lieutenant Governor of the State of California in November 1998, becoming the first Latino elected to statewide office in California in more than 120 years. He remains the highest-ranking Latino officeholder in the United States. In 2001, he launched his College Opportunity and Outreach Program (COOP), a statewide campaign to promote and expand awareness about higher education opportunities. He also formed the Lieutenant Governor's Commission for One California to explore ways in which the media and our schools can promote tolerance.

## Rita Cameron Wedding

[Dr. Rita Cameron Wedding](#) is Coordinator of Women's Studies and Professor of Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies at California State University, Sacramento. Her research and scholarship interests include the study of structural inequalities of racism and sexism. An author and lecturer, she was appointed to the California Commission on the Status of Women by Governor Gray Davis in 1999.

## Lauren Clementino

[Lauren Clementino](#), a senior at Sonoma Valley High School, is serving her second term as a Junior Commissioner with the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women. She has earned both her Silver and Gold Girl Scout Awards. Lauren has received the Governor's Scholarship Award and Golden State Exam High Honors in Algebra, Geometry, and Biology. She is on both the Varsity Cross Country and Track teams.

## Lisa Lopez Coffey

[Lisa Lopez Coffey](#) is the Director for the Commission on the Status of Women of San Mateo County. Under her leadership, the Commission has accomplished several successful collaborative projects, including authoring the Women and Substance Abuse report with San Mateo County Drug and Alcohol Services Agency and co-sponsoring the proclamation for Women's Health and the Older Women's Health Summit with the County Health Services Agency. She also led the partnership with the California Women's Agenda to form a regional coalition of women's organizations in San Mateo County.

## Roslyn Cooperman

[Roslyn R. Cooperman](#) is a long-time community activist. She is a member of the National Council of Jewish Women, Women For:, a Commissioner on the Los Angeles County Commission for Women, and other organizations addressing women's rights, education, reproductive rights, poverty, and intergroup relations. Roslyn was appointed to the California State Commission on the Status of Women by Governor Gray Davis in 1999.

# Featured

## Speakers

### Midge Costanza

[Midge Costanza](#) is Governor Gray Davis' Liaison on Women's Issues. Her 25+ years of public service include being the first woman elected to the Rochester, New York City Council in 1973 and an appointment by President Carter in 1976 as the first woman to hold the position of Special Assistant to the President. Her campaign work includes co-managing Robert Kennedy's senatorial campaign and co-chairing Jimmy Carter's Presidential campaign.

### Sharon Davis

[First Lady Sharon Davis](#) focuses her attention on children's health, safety and well being. Her vision is to ensure that all children be nurtured and cared for in a safe, protective environment. She is the official spokesperson for the Healthy Families Program, California's health insurance program that provides full medical, dental, and vision care coverage for children of working families. She also plays a key role in the Governor's Mentoring Partnership program.

### Jenny Erwin

[Jenny L. Erwin](#) has been the Regional Administrator of the Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, Region IX in San Francisco since January 1999. Her office collaborates with women's organizations, businesses, government agencies and others to develop programs and activities that impact working women in Arizona, California, Nevada, Guam and Hawaii. Prior to her work with the Bureau, Jenny worked 17 years as a Vocational Equity Administrator for the State of Arizona.

### Martha M. Escutia

[Martha M. Escutia](#), first elected to the Assembly in 1992, currently represents the 30<sup>th</sup> Senate District. As a freshman Senator, she was appointed Chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. She became the first Latina Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee in 2000, and Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus in 2002. Her major concerns include health and the environment, rights of consumers, and improving educational opportunities.

### Yosra Ibrahim Fadul

[Yosra Ibrahim Fadul](#) is in her senior year of study as a Child Development major at California State University, Sacramento.

### Marilyn Fowler

[Marilyn Fowler](#) is Founder and President of the Women's Intercultural Network (WIN), a non-profit organization in San Francisco that links women across cultures globally and in the U.S. WIN coordinates CAWA – California Women's Agenda, the state response to the 1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. CAWA has become an active web of over 600 women's organizations and a model for other states and countries in developing coalitions for social change.

### Guadalupe Grimaldi

[Guadalupe Grimaldi](#) is a Senior at California State University, Sacramento, majoring in both Ethnic Studies and Spanish. She was recently admitted to the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program and plans to research Central American Immigration for her summer research project. Her volunteer experience includes work with AIDS organizations and La Familia Counseling Center. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies in the Fall of 2004 and teach Chicano/Latino Studies.

# Featured

## Speakers

### Alison Harlow

[Alison Harlow](#) has served on the Santa Cruz County Women's Commission since 1997. Together with a former Commissioner she established the CEDAW Task Force for local implementation of CEDAW (The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) almost two years ago. It is no simple task to implement CEDAW with no budget, but Alison is pleased to report significant progress in this endeavor.

### Kelly Hayes-Raitt

[Kelly Hayes-Raitt](#) is President of Coast-to-Coast Community Campaigns, has campaigned in numerous states, and is a tireless fundraiser and a fearless advocate for consumer rights, environmental protection, health care and civil liberties. She recently moderated former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's national Town Hall Teleconference on "What Every Woman Should Know About Social Security." Kelly serves as a Commissioner on the Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women and as Treasurer of the Association of California Commissions for Women.

### Billie Heller

[Billie Heller](#) is founder and current Chair of the National Committee on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Billie has a long history of activism in organizations working toward equal rights for women, including Women For:, the California Women's Law Center, Older Women's League, National Women's Political Caucus, California Abortion Rights Action League, and the Coalition for Family Equity. As a journalist, she attended the 1980 and 1985 UN Conferences for Women in Copenhagen and Nairobi.

### Aileen Clarke Hernandez

[Aileen Clarke Hernandez](#) is an urban consultant by profession and an activist by choice. Since its creation in 1996, she has chaired the California Women's Agenda —an electronic and grassroots network of 600+ California women's organizations working to implement the global Plan of Action approved by 189 countries at the Fourth International Conference on Women held in China in 1995. She was the only woman on the five-member US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (appointed by President Johnson in 1965) and the second national president of the National Organization for Women.

### Christina Hioureas

[Christina Hioureas](#), a Junior at UC Berkeley, is founder of the Dana Hills High School and UC Berkeley Chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and serves on the Executive Board and Legislative Committee for California NOW. As a former intern for Senator Sheila Kuehl, the Senate Select Committee on International Trade Policy and State Legislation, and Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR), Hioureas has worked on women's and human rights issues.

### Karen Humphrey

[Karen Humphrey](#), Administrator, Office of Workforce Development, California Department of Education, oversees workforce development initiatives in education. Her office also manages a variety of other programs, including gender equity compliance, equity in career-technical education, and related issues. She has experience as a council member and Mayor of Fresno, CA, and 12 years as a reporter, news anchor and producer of television news. Karen represents State Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin on the California Commission on the Status of Women.

# Featured

## Speakers

### Lorene Irizary

Lorene Irizary is a founding member and President of the Association of California Commissions for Women and Director of the Sonoma County Office of Commissions which includes the Commission on the Status of Women, the Human Services Commission, and the Commission on Human Rights. She serves on the United Way Corporate Board of Directors, Routes for Youth Advisory Board and is a member of the League of Women Voters and the National Women's Political Caucus. She is also Vice-Chair of the Health and Human Services Council and Homeless Coordinator for Sonoma County.

### Marilyn Kizziah

Marilyn Kizziah is Co-Chair of the Coalition for Family Equity, an advocacy group working to protect the economic interests of women and children of divorce. She is a former Coordinator for Women For:, a women's political organization, and board member of the Visiting Nurse Association of Los Angeles. She also worked as a news reporter in Chicago. Marilyn was appointed to the California Commission on the Status of Women by Governor Gray Davis in 1999.

### Katherine Kneer

Katherine Kneer is Chief Executive Officer of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California (PPAC), the state-lobbying arm for the nine Planned Parenthood Affiliates. Prior to joining Planned Parenthood in 1993, Kathy worked for the March of Dimes for 18 years. She has been a registered lobbyist for 20 years, advocating on a broad range of health issues for women including domestic violence, perinatal substance abuse, access to perinatal care, reproductive hazards in the workplace, reproductive rights, immigration and welfare reform.

### Sheila James Kuehl

Sheila James Kuehl, elected to the State Assembly in 1994, is serving her first term in the Senate representing the 23<sup>rd</sup> Senate District. The first woman in California history to be named Assembly Speaker pro Tempore, she is also the first openly gay or lesbian elected to the Legislature. In the Assembly, she chaired the Judiciary Committee and two Select Committees. Her key concerns include domestic violence, the environment, reproductive freedom, family law, and discrimination in employment and education. She serves as a member of the California Commission on the Status of Women.

### Melissa Lukin-Rai

Melissa Lukin-Rai manages BoardNet, a program of the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County designed to maximize the effectiveness of non-profit agency boards. BoardNet staff design and conduct over 30 workshops a year for Executive Directors and board members on the roles and responsibilities of board service, recruiting members, managing effective meetings and enhancing board/staff partnerships. Melissa also consults with nonprofit agencies on strategic planning, Executive Director evaluation and board self-assessment.

### Ghada Masri

Ghada Masri graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a B.A. in Anthropology and a minor emphasis in Political Science and biology. This was followed by graduate studies at the University of California, Davis where she studied and researched issues on gender, family dynamics, and human rights in the Middle East. She has a M.A. in Anthropology with a designated emphasis in Women's Studies, and currently works as a Curriculum Specialist with the University of California, Davis Extension.

# Featured

## Speakers

### Sonia Melara

[Sonia Melara](#) is the Executive Director of Arriba Juntos, an employment and training program in San Francisco. Prior to that she was the Executive Director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women where she was instrumental in passing the first local ordinance to implement the Convention to Eliminate all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Ms. Melara's professional experience includes over 20 years in business, government and non-profit sectors.

### Connie Mitchell, M.D.

[Connie Mitchell, M.D.](#) is a Board certified specialist in Emergency Medicine with expertise in the field of family violence. She is the Director of Domestic Violence Education at the California Medical Training Center, a multi-million dollar project funded by the California Office of Criminal Justice and Planning to improve the health care response to victims of violence. Dr. Mitchell is a recognized medical expert in intimate partner violence (IPV) injuries and teaches criminal justice professionals for the California District Attorney's Association.

### Rosario Navarrette

[Rosario Navarrette](#) is the Deputy Director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women. As a survivor of domestic violence, she is committed to ensuring access to multicultural and multilingual services to underserved communities. Ms. Navarrette's work for the past thirteen years includes policy development on issues of violence against women, specifically domestic violence and sexual assault. Her focus is on coalition building and collaboration between local government and community agencies to improve the delivery of services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

### Pat Obuchowski

[Pat Obuchowski](#) is in her sixth year of service on the San Mateo County Commission on the Status of Women. She is a past President and Vice-President. She also served as a delegate to the Association of California Commissions for Women in 2000-2001 and currently serves as alternate. Her work on the Commission includes Liaison to the county's Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board and the Bay Area Regional Action Committee. Pat has over 25 years of business experience including owning her own business.

### Elena Ong

[Elena Ong](#) is President of Ong & Associates, serving as a public affairs and policy consultant to corporations, foundations, and other organizations. She has worked to increase the number of women and women of color on public policy boards and commissions through her roles as Past President of the Los Angeles Women's Appointment Collaboration and as Liaison to the Governor's Appointment Project. She was appointed in 1999 by Governor Gray Davis to the California Commission on the Status of Women and is serving her third year as its First Vice-Chair.

### Deborah Ortiz

[Senator Deborah Ortiz](#) was elected to represent the 6<sup>th</sup> State Senate District in 1998. Her major interests include education, health and the environment. She serves as Chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and is a member of the Education, Budget, Public employment and Retirement, and Natural Resources and Wildlife committees.

# Featured

## Speakers

### Judy Patrick

[Judy Patrick](#) is Vice President of Program and Operations at The Women's Foundation in San Francisco. She is responsible for the foundation's programmatic work including grantmaking programs, which allocated over \$1.5 million dollars in 2001 to non-profit organizations serving women and girls in California. Her particular focus is The Women's Foundation's work to build the organizational capacity of their grantees and in developing grantmaking programs which encourage grantees to get involved in advocacy and policy change work.

### Jean M. Ross

[Jean M. Ross](#) is the founding Executive Director of the California Budget Project, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1994 to promote a better understanding of state fiscal and economic policy issues and their impact on low and middle income Californians. Jean serves on the Board of the Washington, DC-based Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, the Advisory Committee of California's Franchise Tax Board, the Technical Advisory Committee of California's Economic Strategy Panel, and the Board of the California Tax Reform Association.

### Elizabeth Saviano

[Elizabeth Saviano](#) was appointed by Governor Gray Davis in April 2001 to serve as the Chief of the California Office of Women's Health within the Department of Health Services. The Office of Women's Health serves as the focal point within DHS to guide women's health policy in order to promote more comprehensive and coordinated approaches to improve the health status and reduce the burden of preventable disease and injury in women and girls.

### Megan Seely

[Megan Seely](#) is president of California NOW. As its youngest elected president, Megan is dedicated to progressing a feminist agenda, and in doing so she will address the relevance and dispel the myths of feminism today. It is her commitment to work on California NOW issues, while combating the political environment of the day. It is her intention, through her presidency, to increase awareness of what is at stake for California women and girls, and to create a movement that becomes relevant to young women and men.

### Lilly Spitz

[Lilly Spitz](#) is Chief Legal Counsel for California Planned Parenthood Education Fund, Inc., Planned Parenthood's statewide non-profit education/public policy arm. In this capacity, Lilly is involved with a variety of issues—from community clinic licensure and staffing, to gender equity and reproductive rights. Her responsibilities include participating in litigation, drafting legislative language, legal/policy/medical research, analyzing and responding to proposed and current state and federal regulations, and leading workshops and seminars.

### Belle Taylor-McGhee

[Belle Taylor-McGhee](#) is the newly appointed Executive Director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women. Before joining the Department, Belle served as Executive Director of the California Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (CARAL), the California affiliate of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL). Under her leadership, CARAL expanded into a statewide organization with offices in San Francisco. She also initiated programs to organize communities of color around reproductive care.

## Featured

## Speakers

### Mary M. Wiberg

Mary M. Wiberg has been the Executive Director of the State of California Commission on the Status of Women since October 2001. Prior to that, she served as Gender Equity Administrator for the State of Iowa Department of Education, administering federal funds to promote gender equity. Mary served as a member of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women and on the Board of the National Association of Commissions for Women, including three years as its president.

### Suzanne Wierbinski

Suzanne Wierbinski is the Chief of Staff for Senator Martha Escutia. She has worked in the California Legislature, both Assembly and Senate, for the last ten years and has accrued an extensive background in legislative procedures and process. Besides managing the Senator's capitol and district offices, Suzanne has worked on issues ranging from age discrimination and family law to women's health and environmental issues affecting children and low-income communities.

### Dezie Woods-Jones

Dezie Woods-Jones is the statewide President of Black Women Organized for Political Action. She is also founder of Black Women Organized for Educational Development and its outreach arm, the Black Women's Resource Center. Dezie's commitment to social and economic equity issues is demonstrated by her efforts to empower women and youth. She is also the Assistant Chancellor for External Affairs for the Peralta Community College District.

A special thank you  
to those who donated to the convention

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Bonnie K. Sloane  
Los Angeles

Roberta I. Shouse  
San Bernardino

Marcia Sudolsky  
Rancho Santa Fe

Rita Cameron Wedding  
Sacramento

Legislative Members

Senator Sheila Kuehl

Senator Deborah Ortiz

Senator Nell Soto

Assemblymember Elaine Alquist

Assemblymember Howard Wayne

Assemblymember Patricia Wiggins

Statutory Members

Karen Humphrey  
Representing the Superintendent  
of Public Instruction  
Arthur S. Lujan  
Department of Industrial Relations

Sponsoring Organizations

American Association of University Women - CA  
California Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League  
California Alliance Against Domestic Violence  
California Center for Research on Women and Families  
California Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
California Federation of Business and Professional Women  
California Medical Association Foundation  
California National Organization for Women  
California Planned Parenthood Education Fund  
California Women Lawyers  
California Women's Agenda  
California Women's Law Center  
Delaine Eastin, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
eWomenNetwork  
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality  
League of Women Voters of California  
National Asian Women's Health Organization  
National Association of Women Business Owners - Sacramento Chapter  
Office of Women's Health, California Department of Health Services  
Older Women's League of California  
U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau - Region IX



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